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Cover: addressed to Mr William Shakespeare Hall / Bendigo / Victoria

Henry Edward Hall to W S Hall, 2 June 1854

Woongung

June 2nd

My dear Shakespeare

As Herbert Symonds [h]as kindly offerd to take charge of any thing we have to send to you he will deliver this and some Newspapers in one you will see I have availd myself of your inteligent [sic] letter which I assure you the public as well as the Editor were very pleased with as I have given an account of the Farm &c in And^{ns} letter I must refer you to him and give you a little Colonial news. Old Mr Middleton is dead Edw^d & Miss Middleton are at Wakerger, Rich^d & Tho^s on Oakleys farm at Pingarah they are progressing slowly but have met with many losses Stewards have followed M'Clashan to Melbourne and have sold every thing but the land Old Martin has taken it and has the option of buying it at a fix'd price it is said £130 T Hester has left with them he did not call upon us before he left tho he promised to take the letters and newspapers to you he had staid with us several times for days to suit his own convenience and then left without saying good by I had told him I was very anxious to send by him as I did not know whether you had left or not and I had sent seven Newspapers but had not heard of their arrival and had not rec^d any answer to my last two letters. Old Gouldson is dead and his son is still in the Bank. Old Hymus is dead, his eldest son sold off all the Stock and built a House near Kay's and turned Publican drank all the liquor himself and is now Barman to Patterson who has left the Police and taken the house that Cornish kept — Old Buglas has got his dismissal from the service for being drunk & incapable and is living in the most miserable manner in Mrs Littleton's House. F Davis has left his brother on the farm and is going to Adelaide or Melbourne he was here yesterday and says he shall take the first situation that offers Jack Turner has cut Bibra's and has been training for Cole he is not married yet — We had 53 cows calfed last year your dear Mama is [word missing] anxious to see you and thinks you might do much better here than slaving like Nigers in the mud holes of Bendigo you will see by the Papers that

Stokes is puffing away he has no opposition but his beer is universally disliked but the public have no choice that or none there is a first rate opening at Fremantle and the population of the Colony is increasing so fast that the sale of a good sound Article would be almost unlimited it would be a much more certain and easier way of insuring an independance than groping for Gold — Your dear Mama who has quite recovered of her late severe illness says she cannot dye happy without seeing all her dear children again Frank tells me he has written a general letter he is in fine health and very attentive to business your dear Mama desires to send her *best* love to you all

Believe me to remain

My dear Shakespeare

Your Affectⁿ Father

H E Hall